

Puddletown CEVC First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Newsletter No. 1

8th September 2017

Dear Parent,

It is great to be able to welcome you all back to Puddletown First School and offer an especially warm welcome to all our new parents. I hope that your child has had a successful start to their new year. We will have some photos of YR's first week on our website soon.

As ever there will be lots going on at school, we have put all of the planned dates on to the calendar on our website please do take time to look at it.

Communication

This year we will not be sending out paper copies of our letters and communications with you. Instead we will putting all of our letters on the website.

When a letter has been uploaded onto the website we will alert you with a text message. To help you find the letter we have set up a year group tab under the **Letters to Parents** section. If you are unable to access our website and want a paper copy please do contact the school office.

Attendance and Holidays

As a school we believe that good attendance is crucial to achieving the best outcomes for your child. We believe that attendance of 95% or better over the year constitutes good attendance. Where attendance is below this we will contact you to ensure that you are aware and support you in ensuring that attendance can improve over time. This may mean attending a Local Authority panel. As I communicated last year it is now also Local Authority policy to issue fines for poor attendance including unauthorised holiday. The fine currently stands at £60 per child per parent rising to £120 if it isn't paid within 21 days.

Start of the day routine

As was the case last year we will not ring a bell at the start of the day but will invite the children to enter the school at 8.45am. As part of our safeguarding review we ask that you do not follow your child into the school as it is hard for us to monitor who is in the building. Please leave your child in the playground before the path leading to the main door. Clearly this does not currently apply to our new YR parents, although it is helpful if you would wait for most of the children to get into the building before taking your child in.

The beginning of the school day is a busy time for staff preparing for the day. Therefore, we ask that if you have a message or concern you wish to share with your child's teacher you either speak with me on the gate or go through the school office. Your classteacher will always be happy to arrange a meeting with you at a mutually convenient time to discuss any matters you wish to discuss concerning your child.

Parking

I know that this is a regular item but it is a very important one.

Please do ensure that you park carefully and considerately outside the school. I know that many of you are concerned over the safety of your child as some parking is obscuring a clear view of oncoming traffic.

We have had two Dorset Highways surveys to look at the volume of traffic and we do not meet the threshold required for a controlled crossing. It is therefore up to us a community to manage the parking and safety around our school.

One easy solution for those using cars is to park away from the road by using the Rec carpark which has a path leading to the dropped kerb outside our school.

Can I also remind you that the school car park should not be used for parking or as a walk through out of the school as we have a number of school buses using the car park meaning it is unsafe for pedestrians.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Communication

If you need to contact me at all please do catch me on the gate in the morning, contact the school office or email me head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Diary Dates

13 Sept – Class R drop in sessions
FOPS AGM
Class R Curriculum Meeting 7pm
18 Sept – Archery Club starts Y's 1&2
20 Sept – Archery Club starts Y's 3&4
20/21/27 Sept - Class R drop in sessions
03 Oct – School photographer
17 Oct – Parent/Teacher meeting 2-5pm
17 Oct FOPS Quiz
18 Oct - Parent/Teacher meeting 5-7.30pm
20 Oct – Break up
30 Oct – Inset Day
31 Oct – Return to school
31 Oct – Whole school 'nasal flu' vaccination
10 Nov – M&M Production 'Aladdin'
15 Nov – Maths Evening details TBC
17 Nov – Children In Need
21 Nov – YR open afternoon
23 Nov – Y3 open afternoon
30 Nov – Y1 open afternoon
01 Dec – Advent Reflection Day
05 Dec – FOPS Carols around the village
11&12 Dec – Christmas Production 6pm
14 Dec – Party afternoon
15 Dec – Break up for Christams